

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES CITY OF REPUBLIC \$75,000 ECONOMIC IMPACT INITIATIVE GRANT

The City of Republic received \$75,000 in a Mock Check ceremony August 23, 2005 at the fire department of the City of Republic. The USDA Rural Development Grant Funds will be used for the architectural design of a new fire station to be located in the newly consolidated area formerly known as the Village of Brookline. Plans for the facility include the construction of three bays, living quarters, a community meeting/training room and a small police substation. The City is currently acquiring equipment for the new facility.

"I'm pleased to announce this critical funding for the Republic Fire Department," said U.S. Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. "These dollars will assist in the construction of a new fire station to better serve the residents of Republic and the surrounding area. I will continue to work in the Senate to provide the resources our local fire departments' need to save lives and property."

Congressman Roy Blunt said, "The merger of Republic and Brookline Station is an acknowledgement of the potential for the area to add jobs, homes, businesses and continued expansion. Providing fire services is an important element of any community that wants to grow. The new fire station is a sign of that growth and forward looking thinking by the leaders of the community. I am pleased to see a federal partner in that effort to help the community grow its services."

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Roy Blunt for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for the community." Branum added, "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Fire Chief Duane Compton expressed his appreciation, "With the consolidation of Republic and the former Village of Brookline, the City anticipates quick growth in this area. The construction of a fire station will provide quick response times in emergency situations and should improve insurance rates for the residents in the newly consolidated area."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Leon Melvin, Rural Development Manager, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO, 65802, or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 4 or by email to leon.melvin@mo.usda.gov.



“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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